

through 498. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcalls 489, 490, 494, 495, 497 and 498. I would have voted “nay” on rollcalls 487, 488, 491, 492, 493 and 496.

CONGRATULATING DIAMOND  
DIXON

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Diamond Dixon who will be representing our nation as a member of the Olympic track and field team in London this year. She will compete, as one of our nation's best athletes, in the 4x400m relay. This young woman is not only an amazing competitor, but serves as an inspiration to a generation of young athletes throughout the nation.

Diamond was born El Paso, Texas, the district that I represent, and grew up in Houston. She is currently a student athlete at the University of Kansas and a member of the track and field team.

Running was Diamond's way to escape, the place she could go to forget about her problems and clear her mind. By her junior year at Westside High School in Houston, she had already begun to showcase her athletic talent. On a recruiting trip to see one of Westside High School's male stars, University of Kansas coach Stanley Redwine was very impressed with Dixon's performance at the meet, noting that “her determination and will to win is just unbelievable.”

After racing 21 times during her sophomore collegiate season, Dixon turned in a solid performance on tired legs at the Olympic Trials. She finished third in her opening round and semifinal round heats of the 400m before running a personal-best 50.88, finishing fifth in the final. With the top four finishers automatically in the relay pool, Dixon's efforts impressed Coach Amy Deem enough to earn one of her discretionary selections.

The Olympic Games this summer will be her first call-up to the senior national team. Dixon's strong international relay experience on the junior level Team USA will prove to be a valuable asset to her teammates racing with her in London. In 2010, she led off the U.S. 4x400m that won gold in 3:31.20 at the World Junior Championships in Moncton, Canada. Last summer, she anchored the U.S. to victory in 3:34.71 at the Pan American Junior Championships in Miramar, Florida. In July, Dixon anchored the U.S. to victory in 3:28.64 at the North American, Central American and Caribbean Championships in Irapuato, Mexico.

I am extremely proud of Ms. Diamond Dixon and wish her the best competing in the Summer Olympics. Ms. Dixon's story is the embodiment of the American dream, her motivation

and success were derived from her drive to become the best. This reminds us all that with hard work and spirit, we can accomplish great things.

VOTER PROTECTION

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is an unprecedented effort by the GOP to deprive millions of Americans of their right to vote. Proponents of these efforts to suppress the electorate continue to grossly exaggerate the threat of voter fraud, in hopes of excluding select groups of eligible voters from the polls, and thus swaying the election in their favor.

In 2002, President Bush launched an aggressive 5-year campaign to crack down on voter fraud. The end result was a mere 86 convictions out of the 122 million people who voted during the 2004 Presidential election. There is no evidence to suggest that these facts have changed, and certainly not to the degree in which it is being touted by the Republicans. It is clear that the only reason why overly burdensome voter laws are being adopted is to exclude the elderly, our youth, minorities, and the poor from casting their ballots.

Nationally, an estimated 21 million American citizens do not possess a government-issued photo ID. Under these restrictive laws, that is potentially 21 million Americans who will be excluded from the democratic process. In states like Texas, where millions of individuals live in rural areas and without easy access to ID-issuing offices, the costs are even higher. Millions more stand to be excluded, as voter suppression continues far beyond requiring specific forms of identification.

Mr. Speaker, we must prevent these regressive policies from becoming law if we are to preserve the integrity of the electoral process for all Americans. Fourteen states have already passed restrictive voting laws. This deceptive practice has already gone too far, and I refuse to allow history to repeat itself in what is a direct attack on our democracy, and the American people.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PROTECTION ACT, H.R. 4402

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4402, the National

Strategic and Critical Minerals Protection Act. This bill is yet another Republican giveaway to the mining industry.

H.R. 4402 elevates the narrow special interest of the mining industry above the interests of the American public. For example, this bill gives mining on public lands priority over all other uses—replacing current law that requires public lands to be managed for multiple uses. The White House warns this provision “has the potential to threaten hunting, fishing, recreation and other activities which create jobs and sustain local economies across the country.”

Moreover, H.R. 4402 exempts hardrock mining operations from key provisions of the nation's most important environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. These weakened environmental safeguards would govern mining operations in every region because H.R. 4402 deceptively defines “strategic and critical minerals” so broadly as to include sand and gravel. This means families and businesses all across the country would have less ability to resist new mining operations that threaten to pollute their community's air and water.

Congressman CHIP CRAVAACK, my Minnesota colleague, offered an amendment to H.R. 4402 that would apply these weakened permitting and environmental review provisions to mining proposals that are already in the approval process. This amendment would allow massive sulfide-mining proposals in Northern Minnesota to escape necessary public scrutiny and thorough environmental analysis. The foreign-owned mining corporations advancing these proposals are motivated by short-term profit, not the long-term risks to the people and land of our state. Sulfide mining has never occurred in our state before but has produced a devastating legacy of toxic pollution elsewhere in the country. Minnesotans need and deserve strong federal safeguards to protect the health of our families and communities. The Cravaack amendment to fast-track sulfide mining in Minnesota threatens the environmental integrity of our state's greatest natural treasures, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Lake Superior and the Mississippi River.

I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 4402 in order to safeguard the health of America's children, families, and communities.